

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 06043 160648Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 SSM-03 DHA-02
/093 W

-----160652Z 014493 /17

R 131550Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4800
INFO AMEMBASSY AMANN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6043

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, WB, US, LE
SUBJECT: LEBANON BLOCKES ENTRY OF PALESTINIANS COMING
BY AIR FROM EAST BERLIN.

REF: (A) USBER 1157, 1182, (B) BEIRUT 2029 AND 2166.

1. THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR MAY 13 PROVIDED US WITH
SOME DETAILS OF THE PALESTINIAN INTERFLUG FLIGHT WHICH
ADDRESSES MAY FIND USEFUL. THE INFORMATION, THE AMBASSADOR
SAID, COMES FROM AN "UNOFFICIAL" LEBANESE SOURCE WHO MAY HAVE
BEEN ON THE INTERFLUG FLIGHT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE AMBASSADOR, THE SOURCE CLAIMS THE PLES-
TINIANS, SEVERAL OF WHOM HAD LEBANESE IDENTIFICATION
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DOCUMENTS, CAME FROM WEST BERLIN AND BOARDED THE FLIHT
AT SCHOENEFELD. ENROUTE FROM SCHOENEFELD TO SOFIA,
WHERE THE PLANE MAKES A REGULARLY SCHEDULED STOP,
SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PALESTINIAN GROUP ENGAGED IN A
VILENT ARGUMENT. AFTER ARRIVAL AT SOFIA, THE PLANE'S
CAPTAIN ORDERED TWO OF THE PALESTINIANS OFF, AND THEY
LEFT. ENROUTE FROM SOFIA TO BEIRUT, THERE WERE FURTHER

ARGUMENTS AND THE CAPTAIN ALLEGEDLY CALLED AHEAD TO BEIRUT, TO INFORM AIRPORT AUTHORITIES HE WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH SOME OF HIS PASSENGERS. WHEN THE PLANE ARRIVED, IT WAS SURROUNDED BY POLICE AND LEBANESE AUTHORITIES REFUSED TO LET THE PALESTINIANS OFF. THEY INSISTED THAT THE CAPTAIN IMMEDIATELY FLY OUT OF BEIRUT WITH THEN BACK TO THE GDR. THE CAPTAIN REFUSED, AND AIRPORT AUTHORITIES FINALLY AGREED TO LET THE PLANE AND PASSENGERS REMAIN OVERNIGHT, IN THE UNDERSTANDING THEY WOULD FLY OUT THE NEXT DAY TO SCHOENEFELD. THIS APPARENTLY IS WHAT HAPPENED.

3. THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR HERE SAYS HE WAS CALLED INTO THE FOREIGN OFFICE ABOUT 3 DAYS AGO TO HEAR A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE REFUSAL OF THE BEIRUT AIRPORT AUTHORITIES TO LET THE PALESTINIANS OFF THE PLANE, AND TO FORCE TI TO RETURN WITH THEM TO THE GDR.

4. IT WAS FIRLY OBVIOUS FROM THE LEBANESE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE BEFOREHAND OF THE FLIGHT BY THE PALESTINIANS TO LEBANON AND WAS NOT ENGAGED IN ANY WAY IN PROVIDING VISAS FOR THEM. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR TRANSPORTATION, PALESTINIANS, EXPULSION, REFUGEES, REPATRIATION, TRAVEL CONTROLS, PALESTINIAN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Litigation History:
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